



N E W S R E L E A S E

Contact: Suzanne Schroeder
Kevin Callori
(916) 654-9029

Date: October 18, 2004

News Release No.: 04-48

California's Unemployment Rate Unchanged at 5.9 Percent **Payroll Employment Up 4,900 Jobs**

SACRAMENTO – California's unemployment rate was 5.9 percent in September, unchanged from a revised 5.9 percent in August, the state Employment Development Department (EDD) reported today. A year ago, in September 2003, California's unemployment rate was 6.7 percent.

According to EDD's survey of employers, nonfarm payroll employment in California grew by 4,900 jobs over the month, for a total of 14,529,800.

According to the separate survey of households, the number of Californians holding jobs in September was 16,647,000, a record high for employment. This was an increase of 37,000 from August, and up 352,000 from the employment total in September of last year.

The number of people unemployed in California was 1,046,000 – an increase of 9,000 over the month, but down by 124,000 compared with September of last year.

Of the unemployed, 380,000 were laid off, 85,900 left their jobs voluntarily, and the remaining were either new entrants or reentrants into the labor market.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

In related data, the EDD reported that there were 358,752 people receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits during the September survey week. This compares with 386,577 last month and 488,123 last year. At the same time, new claims for unemployment insurance were 39,350 in September 2004, compared with 40,237 in August and 48,935 in September of last year.

-more-

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

EDD's report on payroll employment (wage and salary jobs) in the nonfarm industries of California totaled 14,529,800 in September, a net gain of 4,900 jobs since the August survey. This followed a gain of 4,300 jobs (as revised) in August.

Five of the categories (**natural resources and mining; construction; trade, transportation and utilities; financial activities; and professional and business services**) added jobs over the month, gaining 29,300 jobs. The professional and business services industry showed the largest gain, up by 18,800 jobs. Six categories (**manufacturing; information; educational and health services; leisure and hospitality; other services; and government**) reported job declines this month, down 24,400 jobs. Information posted the largest decline over the month, down by 8,300 jobs.

The number of jobs in **agriculture** was 379,400 in September, a decrease of 700 jobs from August, but up 17,100 jobs from September 2003.

In a year-over-year comparison (September 2003 to September 2004), nonfarm payroll employment in California increased by 121,900 jobs (up 0.8 percent).

Eight industry divisions (**natural resources and mining; construction; manufacturing; trade, transportation and utilities; financial activities; professional and business services; educational and health services; and leisure and hospitality**) posted job gains over the year, adding 167,900 jobs. On a numerical basis, professional and business services showed the strongest employment growth, adding 73,000 jobs (a 3.4 percent increase). On a percentage of growth basis, construction showed the strongest gain, up 4.2 percent (adding 33,300 jobs),

Three categories (**information; other services; and government**) posted job declines over the year, down 46,000 jobs. On a numerical basis, jobs in government showed the largest decline, down 34,100 (a decline of 1.4 percent).

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (**NOT** SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

Over the month, employment in **government** showed the largest non-seasonally adjusted gain, up by 59,000 jobs. Seasonally adjusted, government showed a 7,100 job loss. The decline means that government did not add as many jobs as would normally be expected at this time of year. The same was true in the **educational and health services** industry, which includes private education. It recorded a non-seasonally adjusted gain of 15,600 jobs and a seasonally adjusted loss of 5,500 jobs.

The **professional and business services** industries reported the largest gain over the year, up 66,400 jobs. The largest gains were in the administrative and support services sector, mainly in employment services, which was up by 42,300 jobs. The largest decrease over the year was in **government**, which was down by 34,300 jobs, with state and local government recording most of the losses, down by a combined 33,800 jobs.

Seasonally adjusted payroll detail follows:

| Industrial Classification | September 2004 (prelim.) | August 2004 | September 2003 | Change Over 12 months (Percent) |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers | 14,529.8 | 14,524.9 | 14,407.9 | 0.8 |
| Natural resources and mining | 22.2 | 22.1 | 21.6 | 2.8 |
| Construction | 824.7 | 819.7 | 791.4 | 4.2 |
| Manufacturing | 1,528.7 | 1,530.6 | 1,525.2 | 0.2 |
| Trade, transportation and utilities | 2,747.2 | 2,743.1 | 2,729.8 | 0.6 |
| Information | 452.0 | 460.3 | 461.2 | -2.0 |
| Financial activities | 902.6 | 901.3 | 894.5 | 0.9 |
| Professional and business services | 2,189.9 | 2,171.1 | 2,116.9 | 3.4 |
| Educational and health services | 1,558.3 | 1,563.8 | 1,543.8 | 0.9 |
| Leisure and hospitality | 1,418.1 | 1,418.9 | 1,400.6 | 1.2 |
| Other services | 502.0 | 502.8 | 504.7 | -0.5 |
| Government* | 2,384.1 | 2,391.2 | 2,418.2 | -1.4 |
| Agriculture | 379.4 | 380.1 | 362.3 | 4.7 |

*Includes all civilian employees of federal, state, and local governments.

TABLE A
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

| | September 2004 | August 2004 | July 2004 | September 2003 |
|---|----------------|-------------|------------|----------------|
| Civilian labor force ^a | 17,693,000 | 17,647,000 | 17,685,000 | 17,465,000 |
| Total civilian employment | 16,647,000 | 16,610,000 | 16,587,000 | 16,295,000 |
| Unemployment | 1,046,000 | 1,037,000 | 1,098,000 | 1,170,000 |
| Seasonally adjusted rate % | 5.9 | 5.9 | 6.2 | 6.7 |
| US seasonally adjusted rate % . | 5.4 | 5.4 | 5.5 | 6.1 |

TABLE B
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, UNADJUSTED DATA

| | September 2004 | August 2004 | July 2004 | September 2003 |
|---|----------------|-------------|------------|----------------|
| Civilian labor force ^a | 17,697,000 | 17,758,000 | 17,850,000 | 17,474,000 |
| Total civilian employment | 16,697,000 | 16,731,000 | 16,679,000 | 16,350,000 |
| Unemployment | 1,000,000 | 1,027,000 | 1,171,000 | 1,124,000 |
| Unadjusted rate % | 5.7 | 5.8 | 6.6 | 6.4 |

^aLabor force by place of residence including workers involved in trade disputes.

**MONTHLY LABOR FORCE DATA FOR COUNTIES
SEPTEMBER 2004 (Preliminary); 2003 BENCHMARK
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

| COUNTY | LABOR FORCE | EMPLOYMENT | UNEMPLOYMENT | RATE |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|
| STATE TOTAL | 17,697,800 | 16,697,500 | 1,000,400 | 5.7% |
| ALAMEDA | 751,200 | 710,800 | 40,400 | 5.4% |
| ALPINE | 340 | 310 | 40 | 10.5% |
| AMADOR | 15,780 | 15,130 | 650 | 4.1% |
| BUTTE | 92,000 | 86,300 | 5,700 | 6.2% |
| CALAVERAS | 17,550 | 16,480 | 1,070 | 6.1% |
| COLUSA | 8,750 | 7,820 | 930 | 10.6% |
| CONTRA COSTA | 520,600 | 497,100 | 23,500 | 4.5% |
| DEL NORTE | 9,880 | 9,150 | 730 | 7.4% |
| EL DORADO | 83,300 | 79,700 | 3,600 | 4.3% |
| FRESNO | 414,600 | 371,200 | 43,400 | 10.5% |
| GLENN | 9,840 | 8,990 | 840 | 8.6% |
| HUMBOLDT | 60,300 | 57,200 | 3,000 | 5.0% |
| IMPERIAL | 61,800 | 46,400 | 15,500 | 25.0% |
| INYO | 7,280 | 6,910 | 380 | 5.1% |
| KERN | 307,800 | 275,900 | 31,800 | 10.3% |
| KINGS | 50,190 | 44,920 | 5,270 | 10.5% |
| LAKE | 25,620 | 23,600 | 2,020 | 7.9% |
| LASSEN | 11,310 | 10,830 | 470 | 4.2% |
| LOS ANGELES | 4,829,300 | 4,530,400 | 298,900 | 6.2% |
| MADERA | 58,800 | 54,100 | 4,700 | 7.9% |
| MARIN | 130,800 | 126,800 | 4,000 | 3.0% |
| MARIPOSA | 8,010 | 7,630 | 380 | 4.7% |
| MENDOCINO | 44,010 | 41,800 | 2,210 | 5.0% |
| MERCED | 94,400 | 84,600 | 9,800 | 10.4% |
| MODOC | 4,540 | 4,300 | 240 | 5.2% |
| MONO | 7,390 | 7,010 | 390 | 5.3% |
| MONTEREY | 197,400 | 185,200 | 12,200 | 6.2% |
| NAPA | 71,900 | 69,200 | 2,700 | 3.7% |
| NEVADA | 49,010 | 47,210 | 1,800 | 3.7% |
| ORANGE | 1,598,300 | 1,546,800 | 51,500 | 3.2% |
| PLACER | 143,600 | 137,500 | 6,100 | 4.3% |
| PLUMAS | 10,870 | 10,180 | 700 | 6.4% |
| RIVERSIDE | 849,400 | 797,300 | 52,200 | 6.1% |
| SACRAMENTO | 660,000 | 625,500 | 34,500 | 5.2% |
| SAN BENITO | 30,270 | 28,040 | 2,230 | 7.4% |
| SAN BERNARDINO | 898,600 | 851,700 | 46,900 | 5.2% |
| SAN DIEGO | 1,521,600 | 1,464,400 | 57,200 | 3.8% |
| SAN FRANCISCO | 403,100 | 381,900 | 21,200 | 5.3% |
| SAN JOAQUIN | 289,300 | 265,000 | 24,400 | 8.4% |
| SAN LUIS OBISPO | 122,400 | 118,600 | 3,700 | 3.1% |
| SAN MATEO | 370,800 | 357,700 | 13,100 | 3.5% |
| SANTA BARBARA | 216,700 | 209,400 | 7,300 | 3.4% |
| SANTA CLARA | 866,800 | 819,300 | 47,500 | 5.5% |
| SANTA CRUZ | 140,300 | 132,400 | 7,900 | 5.6% |
| SHASTA | 84,100 | 78,500 | 5,600 | 6.6% |
| SIERRA | 1,440 | 1,320 | 120 | 8.1% |
| SISKIYOU | 17,620 | 16,280 | 1,350 | 7.6% |
| SOLANO | 216,400 | 205,200 | 11,200 | 5.2% |
| SONOMA | 263,600 | 253,300 | 10,300 | 3.9% |
| STANISLAUS | 220,700 | 200,200 | 20,500 | 9.3% |
| SUTTER | 37,300 | 33,600 | 3,700 | 9.9% |
| TEHAMA | 27,230 | 25,640 | 1,580 | 5.8% |
| TRINITY | 5,260 | 4,800 | 460 | 8.7% |
| TULARE | 176,800 | 154,200 | 22,600 | 12.8% |
| TUOLUMNE | 23,100 | 21,770 | 1,320 | 5.7% |
| VENTURA | 436,600 | 414,200 | 22,400 | 5.1% |
| YOLO | 100,200 | 96,300 | 3,800 | 3.8% |
| YUBA | 22,000 | 19,500 | 2,500 | 11.3% |